



Tapuitea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Tuesday
December 13,
2005

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

No.33



STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR TOGIOLA T. A. TULAFONO

“Congressman Faleomavaega has just formally asked Congress to remove itself as the controlling authority over our Constitution, and put this final authority in the hands of a single person, the Secretary of the Interior.

In putting this request to Congress, he never consulted with the people that would be affected. He did not ask our legislature. He did not ask the elected Governor. He just did it. And we read about it in the newspaper. The Congressman’s action demonstrates the vice of placing this much power in one person. While we would never expect the Secretary of the Interior to act in a similar manner, it is not good governance for this to be possibility.

In 1983, the United States Congress elevated the responsibility for our government structure to the level requiring Congressional Consensus, and deliberately took it out the hands of any single individual to control. This was progress. We do not want to go backwards now to the level where our governance was considered sufficiently unimportant so that just one individual in the Federal Government was assigned to control our Constitution.

We want to work closely with Congress. In the coming years we have important work to accomplish. The Congress is waiting for our leadership in determining the structure and form of governance most suitable for us. And we must be fearless and honest in expressing our desire for the concurrence of Congress. *(continued on page 3)*

DPS CONDUCTS SOBRIETY TESTING TRAINING

The Department of Public Safety’s Training Division recently completed 40 hours of Standard Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) training for some of officers. With the Holiday Season upon us, the timing was preeminent to conduct this training to certify eight of our officers to accurately administer field sobriety tests on drivers suspected of driving under the influence of Alcohol (DUI). The following officers successfully completed the training and are now certified:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ikenasio Maiava | 5. Misi Leo |
| 2. Ioane Pselio | 6. Jerry Sauni |
| 3. Peter Taliva’a | 7. Foma’i Paepule |
| 4. Filemoni Amituana’i | 8. Polofa’asoa Pese |

The training was done in-house by the Department of Public Safety’s own certified instructors or trainers, and was coordinated and managed by the DPS Training Division. “The SFST training is part of an on-going policy initiated by the Commissioner of Public Safety, Paramount Chief Sotoa Savali, to provide in-service training to strengthen the skills and knowledge of our Police Officers to fulfill their responsibilities while on the job,” Lt. Saite Lua Moliga, DPS Training Coordinator remarked.

**SEASONS
GREETINGS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SPEARHEADS
FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS**

By Fara Utu

Every year citizens of all nations around the world are urged and encouraged to focus attention on the devastating global killer disease known as AIDS by commemorating December 1st as World AIDS Day. In American Samoa the fight against AIDS is spearheaded by the Department of Health HIV/AIDS Prevention Program, whose primary mission is to promote activities that increase communication, education, awareness and understanding about this disease in order to stop it from spreading into our Territorial population.

The historical facts concerning AIDS are particularly frightening because so many people have been affected in such a short amount of time. Before 1981, the AIDS disease was totally unknown, but since that year, when the very first AIDS cases were identified, until now (2005) more than 20 million persons have died in just twenty-four years as AIDS spreads rapidly around the world endangering every single country on the planet.

HIV is the name of the virus, which causes the AIDS disease. HIV is most commonly transmitted to an uninfected person from an infected person through unprotected sexual contact. At the present time, in the global community, 40 million people are living with HIV infection, but not for long. Undoubtedly, most of them will develop AIDS in the near future, and then die.

The international epidemic (pandemic) of HIV infection has been steadily expanding for the past two decades. Each year, more people die from AIDS, and the number of people living with HIV infection continues to rise. There is no cure or vaccine for HIV infection. Prevention is the only way in which we can limit the spread of this worldwide public health crisis.

The single most effective, ethical and economical strategy for preventing HIV infection is Public Health education. Learning about the facts and dangers of HIV and AIDS enables each individual to adequately protect her or himself by recognizing and avoiding the risky situations which most often lead to HIV transmission and infection. Furthermore, besides empowering people to guard against becoming infected, AIDS education is also a crucial weapon in the humanitarian struggle against prejudice, stigma and discrimination which HIV infected persons frequently suffer.

(continued on page 4)

**NEWS FROM THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL'S OFFICE:****Territorial Registrar's Office
Temporarily Relocated**

The Office of the Territorial Registrar has been temporarily located to the Territorial Administration On Aging complex in Pago Pago while its permanent location, the former U. S. Naval Communication Station in Fagatogo, is undergoing major renovations. The restoration work is expected to be completed in three months. We ask the public's indulgence and cooperation during this period and apologize for any inconvenience this temporary relocation may cause. For additional information please call (684)633-4868.

**Terry Lovelace Joins Attorney
General's Office**

Attorney General (AG), Malaetasi M. Togafau, wishes to announce the addition of Terry Lovelace to the Office of the Attorney General's team of Assistant AGs. Born in Illinois, Terry has built an excellent career on combining a commitment to law with a passion for building a successful community. He left his law firm in Lansing, Michigan to join the Office of the Attorney General. Terry's criminal and civil experience made him an exceptional candidate for the Assistant AG position. Terry's wife, Sheila will join him later in mid-February, 2006. Please extend a warm welcome to Mr. Terry Lovelace and his family.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

with

Governor Togiola Tulafono

Saturdays @ 7a.m.

On: Showers of Blessings

FM 104.7

Call 699-8123 or 699-8124

FROM THE GOVERNOR *(continued from page 1)*

The Congress is looking for confidence in our strong and continuing affirmation of our relationship with the United States family. This we must do wholeheartedly.

These are the twin directions we should take as we move into renewed considerations of our Constitution. We should generate a new force in embracing our relationship with the national government. We should forge a government that reflects a dedication to our responsibility for our own governance. In doing so, I am confident that we will have a Congress that is enthusiastic in its support."

FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS *(from page 2)*

Observing World AIDS Day on December 1st is, of course, an especially important occasion every year for the Department of Health HIV/AIDS Prevention Program to alert the Territorial community about the continuing dangers to health caused by HIV infection. All public information prevention messages disseminated by HIV/AIDS Program personnel, even throughout the entire year, are specifically designed to remind the community that every person in the Territory is entitled to unrestricted access for FREE, CONFIDENTIAL HIV/AIDS counseling and testing services ON DEMAND. Also, every person in the Territory age 18 or older who might be engaging in risky behavior is repeatedly reminded to check his or her HIV status annually in order to maintain the maximum margin of preventive safety.

The HIV blood test is simple, quick, absolutely free and strictly confidential. Get tested for HIV. Know your HIV status. It is the only way to determine if you are infected with the AIDS- causing virus.

More than one thousand persons in American Samoa were tested for HIV in 2005. The goal for 2006 is to test two thousand persons. Early detection leads to early treatment which leads to extended life expectancy with the availability of medications that delay the onset of AIDS disease in HIV infected patients.

For additional information and any questions about the HIV/AIDS Prevention Program, call 633-1222 ext. 230 or 633-2437.

BE SMART AND DO YOUR PART

KEEP AMERICAN SAMOA AIDS-FREE

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorenson

Historian - Office of the Governor

On December 4, 1889, at a *fono* held in Lepea, 'Upolu, Malietoa Laupepa was once again declared "King of Samoa." The chiefs from Tutuila who attended were "Faiivae, Letuli, Satele, Toomata, Taua, Tauiliile [sic], Noa, Alapa, Olo, Salavea, Mauga, Sai, Leiato, Alo, Faumuina, Pele, Sauea."

On December 4, 1899, U.S. Secretary of State John Hay, in a letter to Mr. Joseph Choate, the United States's Ambassador to the Court of St. James, wrote that Tutuila was "the most important island in the Pacific as regards harbor conveniences for our Navy and a station on the trans-Pacific route."

On December 5, 1914, "Captain Tottenham of the [New Zealand] occupation forces brought Apia's rollicking social life to a standstill by proclaiming a complete ban on the 'production, sale, and purchase of liquor except for medicinal purposes.' Samoans were not greatly affected by the pronouncement; they still preferred kava. But the European community was stunned."

On December 6, 1899, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley, Commandant of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila wrote a letter to Mauga Moimoi of Pago Pago, informing him of the partition of the Samoan islands between Germany and the United States. He asked that this news be disseminated, and that the chiefs continue to maintain good order, promising that their authority, "when properly exercised, will be upheld."

On December 6, 1900, William Blacklock was issued a license to sell liquor in the bar of his newly-constructed Oceanic Hotel in Tutuila. The license was signed, in Commmandant Benjamin Tilley's absence, by his executive officer, Lieutenant Commander E.J. Dorn.
(more on page 4)

MORE HISTORICAL NOTES

(continued from page 3)

On December 6, 1905, American Samoa's Governor, Commander Charles Brainard Taylor Moore, enacted his "Regulation No. 8-1905: Custom Known as 'Auosoga' Prohibited." Subsection 1 of this regulation stated that "The word 'auosoga' in this regulation shall mean and include the wilfull damaging or destroying of trees or property of any nature whatsoever or any public indecent conduct upon the death of a person of rank or during the ceremony known as the 'lagi.'"

On December 6, 1914, Lieutenant Charles Armijo Woodruff relieved Lieutenant Nathan Woodworth Post and became American Samoa's tenth naval governor (acting: until March 1, 1915).

On December 7, 1899, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley left Pago Pago for Auckland, New Zealand to acquire materials for the construction of a wharf and buildings at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila

On December 7, 1941, "one platoon from each company of the First Samoan Battalion, [U.S.] Marine Corps Reserve, was ordered to active duty for a period of six weeks."

On December 7, 1941, "When the Samoans heard that the United States was at war they came in from all sections of the island armed with bush knives (Machettes [*sic*]), volunteering to do anything necessary for the defense of Tutuila.

On December 7, 1941, Captain Laurence Wild, Governor of American Samoa, after learning of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, ordered all women and children evacuated from the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila and moved to the Atauloma Girls' School.

On December 7, 1943, Lieutenant James J. Adams, USNR relieved Lieutenant W.J. McGowan, Jr., USNR as "Commander, Advance Naval Base, 'Upolu, British Samoa,"

On December 7, 1946, USS *Tutuila* (ARG-4), the second U.S. Navy ship to be so named, was decommissioned at Galveston, Texas, following her service in World War II.

On December 7, 1991, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack, Hurricane "Val" caused widespread devastation throughout the Samoan Islands.

On December 8, 1919, Peter Tali Coleman, who became American Samoa's first Samoan Attorney General, the only Samoan appointed civil governor, the first elected Samoan governor, the longest-serving governor in the history of American Samoa, and the only person in the history of the United States and its territories who served as governor in five consecutive decades, was born in Pago Pago.

On December 9, 1941, "the First Samoan Battalion [U.S. Marine Corps Reserve] was placed on active duty for an indefinite date."

On December 10, 1787, French navigator Jean-François de La Pérouse landed two exploration parties on Tutuila's north shore: one from the ship *La Boussole* ("The Compass") at Fagasa, and the other from *L' Astrolabe* ("The Quadrant") at A'asu. One of the cooks, David, died of "scorbutic dropsy" (scurvy).

IT'S THE SEASON FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIPS FROM TEMCO -

It is once again hurricane season in American Samoa. Hurricane season in the Territory is from October to April. The Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office (TEMCO) has adopted the following preparedness awareness tips and strongly recommends that our citizens take them seriously. These tips can help prepare our citizens and their families for natural emergencies or disasters.

- When a disaster is imminent, TEMCO will broadcast instructions for the safety of the public. Please follow instructions for yourself and your family's safety.
- When it is necessary to evacuate your area, please cooperate with emergency personnel and follow instructions. The Department of Public Safety is responsible for evacuation of citizens from identified high-risk areas. By law, you are required to evacuate, however, if you choose to remain in your home, you may not qualify for certain disaster relief assistance.
- If you live in an identified floodplain area, you are required to have flood insurance. TEMCO also recommends that you purchase flood insurance to protect your home and personal properties from any damages as a result of a disaster. FEMA administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Please call the Department of Commerce at 633-4155 for additional information on flood insurance.
- Because we are now into our hurricane season, TEMCO strongly recommends that you prepare a **disaster survivor supply kit** now in the event of an emergency or disaster. Your disaster survivor supply kit must contain sufficient supplies to sustain you and your family for at least 7-days, if you are asked to evacuate, during and after a disaster, and while awaiting assistance. Following is a list of items we recommend that you should include in this kit:
 - Drinking Water
 - Canned Food
 - Clothing
 - Medications
 - Sanitary supplies
 - First aid
 - Flash light (with extra batteries)
 - Battery-operated radio (with extra batteries)
 - Candles
 - Beddings
- Individuals with medical conditions requiring special care and medications must be adequately supplied and you must assure that all precautionary measures have been taken for their care. Special arrangements must be made with health officials at the hospital for individuals with severe medical conditions (i.e. – dialysis and bedridden patients). Parents of infant children must bring adequate supply of baby food and disposable sanitary products.
- Families or individuals who choose not to evacuate and/or utilize identified shelters are advised to take similar precautions and be self-sufficient for at least a 14-day period.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please call the TEMCO at 699-6481 or 633-6482.

Note: It is advisable to store your important documents in sealed protective bags or in a fire-proof/water-proof safe.

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 : A HOLIDAY TIP FROM DPS: FOR A HAPPY AND SAFE :
 : HOLIDAY SEASON, STAY ALIVE, DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!!! :
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